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VALLEY STAR

VOLUME 60, ISSUE NO. 7 NOVEMBER 5, 2003 LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

No Carpool Lane Here

■ Budget cuts force some to take classes at multiple schools.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Students who are trying to save money by attending two-year community colleges are finding themselves spending much more than expected on gas, food and their education.

With a combined 300 classes no longer being offered at Valley, Pierce and Mission colleges, jammed parking lots and overcrowded classrooms are becoming the standard.

"I have to leave an hour early for every one of my classes," said Carl Amato, a California State University, Northridge and Valley student living in Burbank. "I already have a difficult enough time getting into the parking lot, it's worse getting into the classroom. I'm sick of it."

Classrooms are being packed to maximum capacity leaving students hording hallways in order to take notes. Many students are just looking to get their credits in any way possible in order to complete their education. Some students are being forced to complete a two-year program in three, sometimes four years.

See *Commute* page 6

Deputies Wield New Weapons

■ Campus police trained to use new style clubs.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Sheriff's Department whipped out its new weapons for a training session last month, then collapsed them and went back to work.

"It's easier to carry because it's collapsible and fits easier on our belts," said Deputy Randy Tuinstra, head of campus security. "It does the same job as the regulation baton does."

At least a dozen officers from each campus in the Los Angeles Community College District attended the four-hour training session with their collapsible batons.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's first choice is still the baton with the side handle for crowd control or in a riot situation because of the way the stick is held. It protects the officer's hand, according to police.

"The baton and holder cost about $90 to purchase," Tuinstra said. "That comes out-of-pocket for officers who choose to carry this baton."

"I carried the standard side-handled club issued by the department but it was too noisy and cumbersome," Campus Security Officer Robert Figuroa said. "I took my training elsewhere and have been carrying [the collapsible] baton for about three years now."

Most officers on the Valley campus are carrying the new baton and as more officers come on board they will schedule more training sessions, Tuinstra said.

TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

UTTER DESTRUCTION - Many houses were spared during the Claremont Fire, while some, such as the one above at the summit of Mountain Road in Claremont, suffered total ruin. Valley College professor Dr. Ectument Aksoy sustained damage to his home during the firestorms that charred nearly 750,000 acres, killed 22 and caused more than $1 billion in damage.

From the Ashes: California Rebuilds

■ Valley College faculty members impacted by the recent firestorm.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

As Californians begin to recover from last week's devastating firestorms, so do members of the Valley College campus community.

Although flames never threatened the Valley campus it did not remain untouched. Faculty, staff and students who live in areas threatened by fire raced to protect possessions and the possible destruction of a lifetime of work and memories.

Professor of economics at Valley Dr. Ecrument Aksoy, a resident of Claremont, suffered damage to his home and property as out of control wildfires raced through his hillside neighborhood where about 20 to 25 homes were lost.

A mandatory evacuation was called at 1 a.m. Oct. 25 and Aksoy's family had about 20 minutes to grab important documents and leave. Aksoy and his family went to a friend's house but he returned to keep an eye on things.

"I stood at the bottom of the street and kept watch on the big pine tree behind my house," Aksoy said. "When the tree went I thought, there goes my house."

Upon returning the next morning a list was posted at the bottom of the street to tell residents which homes had burned and his was not on it. When they were allowed to return home to retrieve a few of their possessions he saw the house next to his had burned to the ground leaving only a chimney as a reminder that a home once stood there. Although a corner of his home had caught fire, Aksoy said there were signs of the battle to save his home by all the hose line marks in the ash. "I thought it was a miracle. If I find the firemen who saved my house, I'm going to give them a big hug. I feel blessed."

Lynn Brower, director of CalWorks who lives in Porter Ranch said her daughter showed up offering to take some of her belongings back to her house in the event they were asked to evacuate but she thought it unnecessary.

"I was just in denial and thought my house would be O.K.," Brower said. "It wasn't until they closed off the street that I got concerned. The thing I realized though is that in the future we need to have a survival plan."

Arlene Stein, senior office assistant in the CalWorks/GAIN office lives Brower's neighborhood and took the possible evacuation threat more seriously. She said she stacked all her photo albums and videos where they would be ready to go in the event they were asked to leave.

"People on our street kept their garage doors open in case of a power outage so they could leave quickly," Stein said. "The first day (of the fire) the helicopters were picking up their water right behind our homes. They really bombarded us with water drops on Wednesday and the fire finally moved onto Santa Clarita."

Neither Brower nor Stein's homes sustained any fire damage.

In Simi Valley where fire blackened thousands of acres and crept persistently toward homes, Frank Sinsheimer, director of clinical education in the respiratory therapy program said he slept through the worst of it.

"My neighbor called me at 5:30 a.m. and asked me if I knew what was going on?" Sinsheimer said. "I didn't have time to be afraid. By the time I went outside the fire was all the way down to the street but the fire department managed to stop it before it got to us."

Sinsheimer handed out respiratory masks to all his neighbors due to the smoke and ash that lingered in the air after the flames retreated. "The sad

See *Fires* page 6

Monarchs' D-Line Dis-jointed

■ Valley College football star found with less than an ounce on marijuana.

BY JACQUI BROWN AND JAYSON ADDCOX
STAFF WRITERS

A star Monarch football player was recently arrested in a campus parking lot for possession of marijuana and has been kicked off the team.

Tearrius George, 20, was apprehended by campus security officer Roger Tompkins on routine patrol on Oct. 31. Tompkins approached George who was sitting in a car that was parked in the red zone in lot A.

Tompkins saw George cutting less than an ounce of marijuana. The security officer confiscated the drugs.

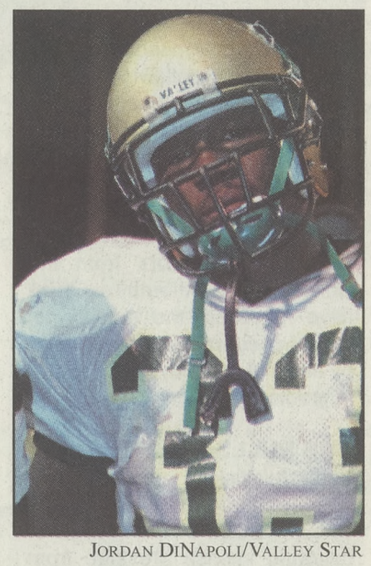
George, a sophomore, has been suspended indefinitely according to Head Coach Ron Ponciano. "He is done," Ponciano said. "His career here is over, I wish him the best."

Athletic director Chuck Ferrero and Ponciano discussed what course of action to take against George.

"To do nothing would send a bad message to the rest of the athletes on campus," Ferrero said. "We acted in good faith. Ponciano's position was strict, but was the only position he could take."

School policy allows for discretion in matters violating the student code of conduct.

George, a defensive end, led the team in sacks with 4.5 and has recorded 45 tackles through the first eight games of the season. The one-time captain of the team didn't play during Saturday's 44-9 loss against Hancock College.

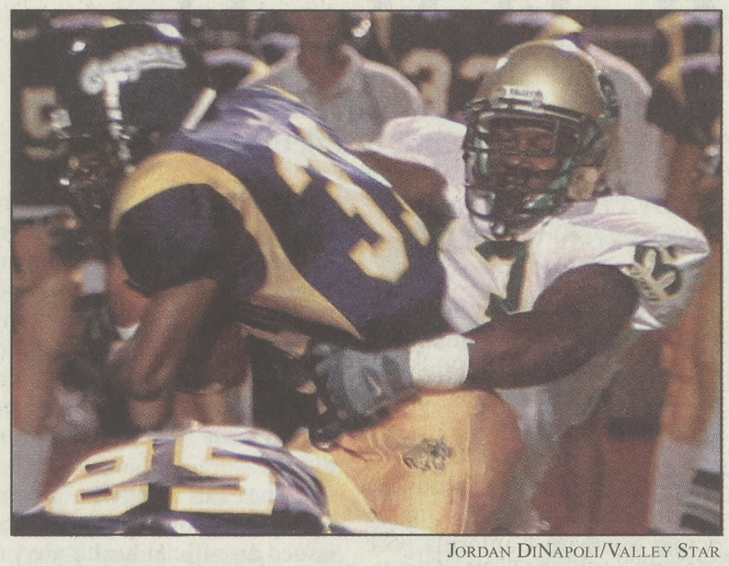


JORDAN DINAPOLI/VALLEY STAR

UP IN SMOKE - Valley defensive lineman Tearrius George was apprehended Friday for possession of marijuana.

Several teams are currently recruiting George, who was a pre-season all state selection. The possession charge may affect his abitily to be recruited. "Some schools don't care, but the majority do," Ponciano said. Ferrero said that very few schools would want to recruit an athlete who is involved in drugs.

George was taken to the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station for booking on a misdemeanor charge for drug possession.



JORDAN DINAPOLI/VALLEY STAR

TAKEN DOWN - Valley defensive lineman Tearrius George takes down a running back at College of the Canyons Oct. 25.

Workshop Fails to Attract Audience

■ Sexual harassment workshop fails to generate interest among students and faculty.

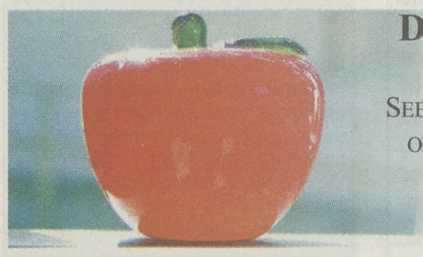
BY KRISTA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Three students attended the sexual harassment workshop Compliance Officer Kay Divine held Nov. 4. A previously scheduled workshop on Oct. 29 drew no attendees.

"It's been a challenge to me to figure out how to get to students," Divine said. "I'm suspecting that there may not be a high level of concern." Divine prepared a Powerpoint presentation to explain what is considered sexual harassment and how it should be dealt with.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other physical or verbal conduct of an unwanted sexual nature. Obscene gestures, threats

See *Workshop* page 6



DEAN'S LIST PG. 8
TOP MONARCHS
SEE IF YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THE DEAN'S LIST FOR LAST SEMESTER. CONGRATULATIONS

SPORTS PG. 9
THE "GO-TO" GIRL
THE LEADER OF VALLEY'S OFFENSIVE ATTACK PLAYS A NEW ROLE IN THE MONARCHS' PLAYOFF HUNT

GALLERY PG. 10
IT'S IN THE SKIN
WENDY ALVARADO AND LAGINA PHILLIPS EXPLORE THE ANCIENT TRADITION OF BODY ART

NEWS REEL

BUSH IN SOUTHLAND:
President George W. Bush toured the area of Southern California devastated by last week's firestorms. Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger asked for federal assitance during his visit to Washington, D.C.

RECONSTRUCTING IRAQ:
Congress approved President Bush's request for $87.5 billion to be used to help with reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Several of the major democratic candidates for the 2004 presidential nomination criticized the proposal and wanted the some of the money to be given as a loan.

ATTACKS IN IRAQ:
Several more American military personnel died following attacks in Iraq. Sunday's deadly attack on a U.S. military helicopter killed 16 people during a flight to Baghdad Airport.

WAL-MART BUSTED:
Federal investigators from the United States Attorney's Office have accused the retailer of violating federal immigration laws by allegedly employing illegal immigrants.

CBS PULLS THE PLUG:
The television network announced it will not air their controversial minisiers "The Reagans" following intense pressure from Republican lobbying groups. The network was accused of inaccurately portraying the life of the former president. The project will eventual air on the Showtime cable network.

ROCK THE VOTE:
Boston's Faneuil Hall served as the backdrop for the Rock the Vote campaign program sponsored by CNN Tuesday. Eight of the nine democratic candidates for president appeared at the event.

SOLAR ATTACK:
A large emission of solar flares pummeled the Earth's atmosphere last week damaging two Japanese satellites and impacting air traffic worldwide.

Trustee Takes Tutoring Tour

■ **Valley College offers free tutoring for students.**

By Carol Morales
Staff Writer

Trustee Michael Waxman took a 'Tutor Trail' through Valley College Oct. 28 to learn about the various free tutoring programs available to Valley students.

"I've come to Valley and learned about the success tutoring has had on the students," Waxman said. "What I want to do is make sure that all nine college campuses benefit from such programs as the ones here."

The 'tutoring trail' consisted of visiting the Learning Center, the Supplemental Instruction program, the Writing Center, the Math Lab, the Earth Sciences Lab and the Life Sciences Lab. Each program director took the time to introduce their program to Waxman and talk about the effectiveness each program has had on student's education.

Each year about 6,000 students take advantage of the free tutoring programs according to Cherine M. Trombley, associate dean of research and planning. Students participating in these programs have a 10 to 20 percent higher success rate than students who are not.

The tutoring center is designed to help students through difficult classes in which some can't deal with the structure of the class and instead may need peer one-on-one or group tutoring to help them get through it.

"Tutoring has really helped me," student Guadalupe Frias said. "I have learned how to read

See *Tutoring* page 6

Wendy Alvarado/Valley Star

TUTORING - Judith Gabriel helps Albert Shabandrt to improve his writing skills at the Writting Center on Monday. Valley College offers many free tutoring services to students.

... And Leon's Getting Larger: Study Reveals Obesity Rates Climbing at Alarming Pace

■ **Senate bill proposes legislation to curb the inactivity of students and provide greater nutrition education.**

By Susan Maltby
Staff Writer

Obesity rates have reached epidemic proportions in the United States, according to the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rates rose more than 60 percent among adults and tripled in children and adolesents during the last 20 years.

Unhealthy eating habits and physical inactivity, the main causes of obesity, are responsible for over 300,000 preventable deaths each year.

On Oct. 29, Senate Republican Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee received unanimous senate panel approval to introduce a bill intended to address America's obesity problem. The legislation would give federal grants to cities and schools to pay for nutrition classes and promote fitness.

The Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity Act includes grants to health profession students for research on eating disorders and obesity now heads to the senate floor. The bill doesn't indicate the exact amount of money to be spent on these initiatives.

"This bill does not intend to stigmatize those who struggle to control their weight or to demonize any sector of the country by blaming them for this epidemic," said Frist in an Associate Press report.

Some Valley College Health Center workers said that one way to address the obesity problem among college students would be to increase the unit requirement from one to three units.

"Taking one required physical education credit over a two year period places a very low emphasis on exercise," said Brandy Rodriguez, medical center assistant.

Marilyn Matchett, R.N., attributes the nation's obesity problem to inactivity. "The youths of America are less active and eating more fast foods," Matchett said.

"English has a four unit requirement and physical education is only one, so most people might think that it's not as important. But being fit is a fundamental part of your life."

Matchett said students need to find the motivation they need to change their lifestyle. "The key to losing weight isn't a diet. It is a complete lifestyle change," explained Matchett.

The health center staff offers the following tips on changing harmful habits and explain that the little things you do can really add up. Walk a little more. Choose low fat foods and pay attention to your eating patterns. Find ways to avoid eating for emotional reasons.

Liberal studies major S. Michelle Klein-Hass says she takes her health seriously and has dedicated herself to a plan that increases her level of activity.

See *Obesity* page 6

Fires' Impact on Health May Linger

■ **Officials concerned pollutants emitted by the fires may cause health problems in the future.**

By Peter O'Connor
Staff Writer

Although cooler weather and rain have settled some of the California wildfires, Southland residents may face health risks in the next few months, health officials said last week.

The vast quantities of smoke, soot and ash being produced by the deadly wildfires raging across Southern California pose significant health risks, especially to children, the elderly and those with heart or lung disease.

"We know that smoke from wildfires has the greatest impact on the most sensitive populations," said Los Angeles County Department of Health Officer Dr. Jonathan Fielding.

Fielding said the excessive amounts of smoke pervading the region could trigger asthma attacks, aggravate the condition of those suffering from emphysema, put increased stress on people with cardiovascular disease and lead to increased infection in those suffering from lung disease.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services issued an official health alert on Monday, warning residents to exercise extreme caution to avoid fire-induced air pollution.

"Unfortunately the fire-induced air pollution is all around us," said Brandon Savory, Valley College student

See *Impact* page 6

Worst California Fires

A look at some of the most deadly and costly Golden State fires:

Oct. 1933
A 50-acre blaze in Griffith Park near Los Angeles claimed the lives of 29 volunteer firefighters.

Oct. 1991
Fires in the hills of Oakland and Berkeley destroyed 3,000 structures and killed the lives of 25 people.

Oct. 2003
Fires raging from Ventura County to the Mexican border claimed the lives of 22 people and burned more than 700,000 acres. These fires rank as the costliest in California history.

Nov. 1956
During a 4,450-acre blaze in the Cleveland National Forest killed 11 people.

Sept. 1970
A 20-mile long fire stretching from Newhall to Malibu damaged 403 structures and took 10 lives

Sept. 1970
185,000 acres were blackened, 382 structures burned and 5 lives lost in the Cleveland National Forest fire in San Diego County.

Nov. 1961
The Bel Air fire destroyed 449 structures and charred 5,850 acres.

Timeline, Budget Concerns Focus of Prop A Town Hall Discussion

■ **Campus revitalization process reliant upon compliance to timeline.**

By Krista Carlson
Editor-in-Chief

An arborist will visit the campus this month to catalog 1,800 trees and create a manual detailing the condition of and how to care for each, and restroom renovation, a high priority, is scheduled to be contracted late in the month.

For the last month and for the next month the budget will be reviewed to ensure that Proposition AA funds are worked into the plan correctly "We have to go back and look at our priorities as a college community," Project Director Alix O'Brien said. "We have a zero percent tolerance. You're either on the budget or you're off budget. "Valley received $105.4 million from proposition AA, $600,000 less than expected.

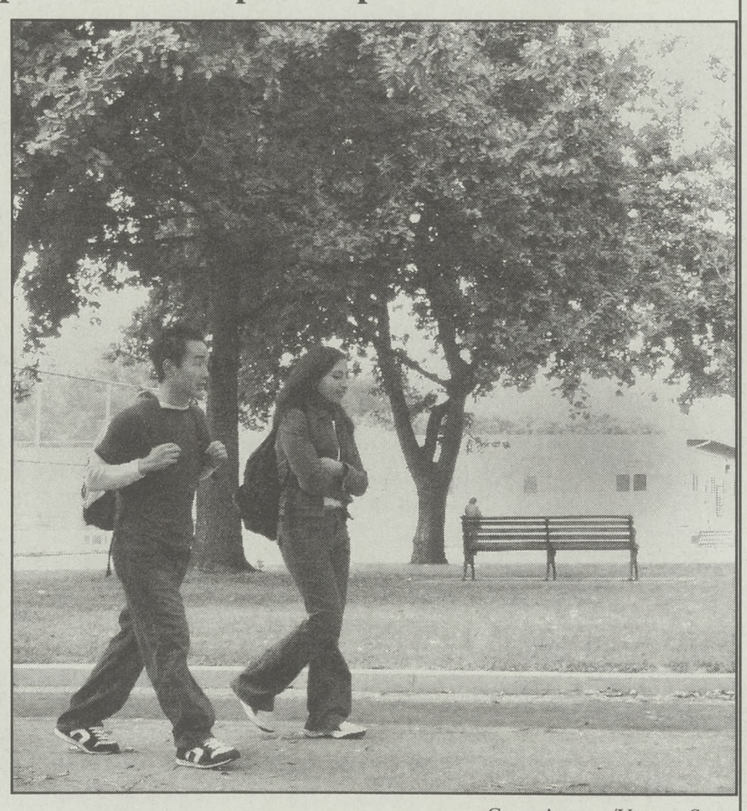
The design development for the allied health sciences building is now complete and construction documents for the campus operations center, which will house plant facilities and campus security, are in progress. A furniture and fixtures committee has been formed to determine how the buildings will be outfitted. The committee consists of faculty, staff and students

A net of 250,000 square feet of workspace will be added under Valley's master plan, beginning with the campus operations center to be location in a portion of parking lot D. Following construction of the COC, plant facilities, the sheriff's office and the surrounding bungalows will be demolished to make way for the much-anticipated allied health sciences building. The $15.3 million allied health sciences building is billed as the most costly project among the nine campus in the Los Angeles Community College District.

"It's obviously going to be exciting to see the new buildings but I'm just as concerned about the renovations because that's where the classes are held," Valley President Tyree Wieder said. "One of the things we have to be most concerned about is the schedule because anytime we take a classroom out we have to be concerned about getting it back."

Green energy standards will be incorporated into the new buildings - the campus operations center, the media arts center, the allied health sciences building and the learning resource center - in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council as part of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. DMJM/JGM, the LACCD program management

See *Prop A* page 6



Gaby Alonso/Valley Star

WALK BY THE OAKS - Two students walk by the English oak trees behind the life sciences building. The trees provide a quiet place to study under shade.

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Opinion

One Way or Another

Each week, The Valley Star examines an issue from two sides.

This week: **Should UC Schools Selectively Ignore Standardized Admissions Criteria?**

Broadening Standards

By Peter O'Connor
Staff Writer

Some claim that the University of California is recklessly lowering its admission standards because nearly 400 students were admitted to UC Berkeley in 2002 with SAT scores falling between 600 and 1,000 – well below the 1337 average for last year's crop. Nearly 2,600 applicants with scores from1400-1500 were not admitted and 600 would-be Cal students with scores above 1500 were also rejected.

"It's outrageous – they don't have any business going to Berkeley," UC Board of Regents Chairman John Moores said in the San Francisco Chronicle. "The students are being admitted for all the wrong reasons."

But who is to say the students who fell below the target SAT score are not capable of competing at the UC level? Although students may have less-than-stellar test scores and not-so-great grades, the new policies do not leave room for accepting bottom feeders over the cream of the crop.

The new admissions process allows for the evaluation of applicants on a *comprehensive* basis, expanding the definition of merit to include extracurricular activities, academic opportunities, social contributions and intellectual motivation, as well as socio-economic status.

"Each student admitted is outstanding, as determined by a thorough analysis of all the information in their application file including their scores and achievement tests. This process yielded the strongest academic class in Berkeley's history," said Berkeley Assistant Chancellor John Cummins in published reports.

The SAT is an exhausting process that many have trouble preparing for. Students and families cannot always afford to pay for prep courses at outrageous prices soaring to more than $1,000.

Others simply do not perform well on standardized tests despite other academic strengths and end up falling back on weaker schools.

"It is unfair to focus just on SAT scores because a host of factors determines an applicant's admission score," said Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl in the San Francisco Chronicle. "On average, an applicant's GPA and test scores correlate very highly with the admission score. But for any individual applicant, some factors will be higher and some lower than the average."

In investigating the cases cited by Moores' study, Berdahl said the campus found that students with high SAT scores who were denied fell into four categories: They had withdrawn their applications; they were out-of-state applicants and were held to a higher standard; their GPAs and other academic factors were deficient; or they had applied to one of the three very highly competitive majors in the College of Engineering.

"Most importantly, first-year performance data for these low-scoring students indicates they are doing well at Berkeley," Berdahl said. "No one has left due to academic deficiency."

Many students do not apply to UCs due to not having near-perfect grades and test scores, and a lack of confidence. Schools must have the ability to accept students based on criteria besides SATs and ACTs, opening the admissions door to complete individuals.

While 400 students may not seem like a big number for a university that admits thousands of students every year, more than 3,000 students with scores of 1400 or above were rejected.

UC schools advocate a "comprehensive review" system, which strives for a diverse student population.

In Berkeley, however, the inconsistencies between performance and admission are flagrant.

The admissions process can be overwhelming. At Berkeley, each of more than 37,000 applications were evaluated by at least two reviewers, who take into account other criteria such as leadership and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Understaffing for this formidable task might be one reason why this inconsistency exists.

While there is nothing wrong with taking other criteria into account, some type of objective standard is needed to insure that the admissions process is not abused or diluted.

By having objective and disclosed standards, students will know what is expected from them and will not emphasize areas that the school deems secondary.

The UC Board of Regents Chairman John J. Moores told the Los Angeles Times that, "A little transparency is wonderful thing – and it would be good for this university."

It is not clear exactly how evaluators weight each category or what the categories besides quantifiable standards such as SATs and GPA are. Moores said that he was "shocked" by Berkeley's process and that he, "does not see any objective standards."

If the University of California allows its campuses to disregard SAT scores, it is in violation of its own official opinion.

The office of the UC president says on its website that the SAT's "validity as a predictor of success in college has been demonstrated through hundreds of studies."

If UC now takes the position that the SAT is not a good indicator of success, it should disclose the basis for this decision.

Otherwise, it can only be inferred that it believes that the SAT is valid and should be given its due weight.

The University of California should not have to rely solely on SAT scores to admit students. It should have some flexibility since success in college is not determined by SAT scores alone.

Factors such as leadership and background are subjective; while they should be considered, it shouldn't be at the expense of SAT scores.

Until the validity of the SAT is disproved or the mystery is taken out of the other criteria used, the SAT score must stand as an important gatekeeper into our top caliber public institutions.

Objectivity in Admissions

By Cary Green
for The Star

If you support punishing the highest achieving students who have the most promise of succeeding and paying taxes to subsidize students who score poorly, then throw out SAT scores as a criterion for admissions in the University of California system.

That's exactly what UC Berkeley has done, admitting nearly 400 undergraduate students with SAT scores between 600-1000 in 2002. The average for the previous class was 1337.

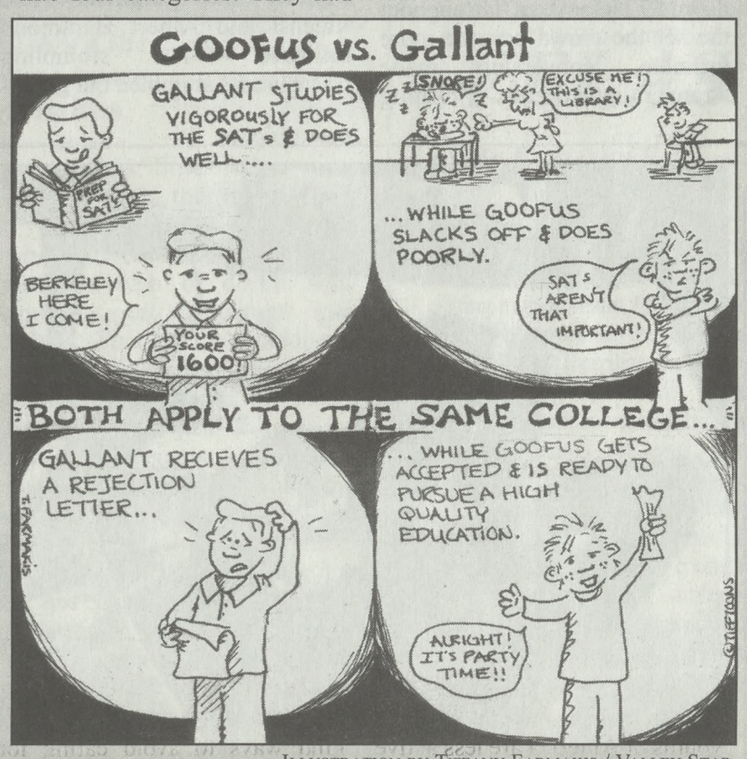

GOOFUS vs. Gallant
GALLANT STUDIES VIGOROUSLY FOR THE SAT's & DOES WELL....
PREP FOR SAT's
BERKELEY HERE I COME!
YOUR SCORE 1600!
SNORE!
EXCUSE ME! THIS IS A LIBRARY!
...WHILE GOOFUS SLACKS OFF & DOES POORLY.
SAT's AREN'T THAT IMPORTANT!
BOTH APPLY TO THE SAME COLLEGE...
GALLANT RECIEVES A REJECTION LETTER...
...WHILE GOOFUS GETS ACCEPTED & IS READY TO PURSUE A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION.
ALRIGHT! IT'S PARTY TIME!!

Illustration by Tiffany Farmakis / Valley Star

Jessica Lynch, American Idol

By Benjamin Favela
Photo Editor

Hero, noun: 1. an illustrious warrior, one that shows great courage. 2. an object of extreme admiration and devotion, IDOL
Source: Merriam-Webster OnLine

I hate Jessica Lynch.

Not that I hate her personally. I don't know her. I'm sure she's one of the nicest and most humble girls I could ever meet. What I despise is that Americans and American media make her out to be a hero.

LYNCH - Hero or Idol?

She is not, in fact, a hero. Captured soldier Lynch is as much an American hero as, say, letter turner Vanna White or billboard goddess Angelyne.

Americans have a habit of glorifying people who have done, basically, nothing. To be a hero, you have to actually do something heroic. You have to save somebody's life, help end a war, find a cure for AIDS.

Lynch is not the only one to be extolled as a hero without reason – Nine miners in Pennsylvania who were trapped for 77 hours, approximately 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001 - these people are not heroes, but were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Angelynegovernor.com
ANGELYNE - At least she ran for governor.

A year after Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic was ousted with assistance from NATO forces, ABC's "Nightline" anchor Ted Koppel asked viewers to name the capital of Bosnia and the name of Milosevic's replacement. I found myself struggling to come up with the answers. Then I realized that was Koppel's point. We once knew, we once cared.

In a few years, I doubt if anybody will remember the name of Jessica Lynch, even though now we can't seem to get enough of her.

She should relish this fleeting attention, for there are some women who were in her same situation and aren't getting half as much notice.

Like Shoshana Johnson. Sound familiar? Didn't think so, but you've seen her face.

She was one of our soldiers captured by Iraqi forces. On TV, we saw her eyes darting from side to side, looking at her interrogators, terrified. Johnson and her fellow POWs were subsequently released.

A 30-year-old army cook and single mother, she was shot in the ankles by her captors and now has difficulty walking. She is currently receiving 30 percent disability pay, while Lynch is receiving 80 percent.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson claims race played a role in the decision (Lynch is white, Johnson black).

Johnson is also the only African-American POW to survive.

Yet the public knows nothing about her struggle. Nor do they know about Pfc. Lori Piestewa, the first U.S. female service member to die in the war.

So why does Jessica Lynch get so much attention? Maybe it's her looks. She's the All-American Girl, the one you'd take home to Mom. She's young, pretty and has a smile that would make the Joker jealous.

Or maybe it's the story the Pentagon told when she was first captured, how she shot and killed several of her assailants while being shot and stabbed herself.

Lynch doesn't deserve all the attention she gets.

By the way, the Pentagon later recanted, acknowledging that she, in fact, had not shot and killed any of her assailants, was never shot nor stabbed herself and couldn't fire her rifle because it jammed.

Regardless, Lynch doesn't deserve all the attention she gets. She is not a hero. She is, in fact, an idol.

The Valley Star welcomes your comments and criticism.
E-mail us at **TheValleyStar@yahoo.com**
or drop us a line at BJ114.
Be sure to include your name and contact information.
Please limit your letters to 200-300 words.
(818) 947-2576

Staff Editorial

Rock Yourself

We're talking to you, Mr. or Ms. iPod-wearing, midriff-bearing, skateboarding, 50 Cent-listening, pot-smoking, Scantron-hoarding college student.

The USA PATRIOT Act. Access to health care. Abortion rights. How much you pay in taxes. Even access to financial aid.

All of these things are within your power to affect. But more and more, it seems, people describe themselves as "not political," as if that inoculates them somehow, lets them abdicate their social responsibility.

A recent Representative Democracy in America Project poll states that college-age people, "do not understand the ideals of citizenship, they are disengaged from the political process, they lack the knowledge necessary for effective self-government, and their appreciation and support of American democracy is limited."

Are you going to take that lying down?

Enter Rock the Vote, a non-partisan group founded in 1990 to inform young voters and encourage them to participate in the process. You've probably seen their spots on MTV, featuring artists as diverse as U2, P. Diddy, Linkin Park and Aimee Mann desperately trying to flag down your fragmented attention.

Last night, Rock the Vote sponsored a debate featuring all nine Democratic presidential candidates, focusing on youth-oriented issues and asking questions submitted by people just like you. Did you watch it? Probably not. The event was broadcast live on CNN, whose median viewer age is around 60.

According to Rock the Vote, only 32.3 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds eligible to vote in 2002 actually did so. There are roughly 28 million people currently in that age group – an untapped resource of about 19 million voters.

And yet college students, who should be among society's most inquisitive and best informed citizens, come up alarmingly short in the area of knowledge of current events. Did you know, for instance, that there is a law against providing financial aid to students with even minor drug convictions?

A recent survey by the Harvard-based Institute of Politics shows that although 71 percent of college students acknowledge that they are "very worried" about the economy and 87 percent believe that the administration misled the nation about the war in Iraq, they are far more supportive of President Bush than is the general public (61 percent – about 10 points higher than non-students).

According to the same survey, less than half of students know the political party of their own state's governor. The Institute of Politics was apparently panicked enough by this data to launch a national campaign to engage college students in politics.

But it's not just voting that makes up your political participation in everyday life.

Do you think employers should provide healthcare? Or are American workers pampered sissies who expect a free ride? You can make your opinion known by either honoring the picket lines at local supermarkets or scoring your Skittles from scabs.

How about a woman's right to choose versus your right to choose a Western Bacon Six Dollar Burger? Carl Karcher, owner of Carl's Jr., is a longtime advocate and financial supporter of pro-life causes and candidates. Does this make you more or less likely to get your onion rings there?

You don't have to actually run for office in your campus government or volunteer for a candidate's campaign to have an impact – although honestly, would it kill you to write an e-mail to your congressman?

Don't be under-represented. Make your voice heard.

Put down the MP3 player and the bong and read the paper. Think critically about what you're told. You're in college, for crying out loud!

Rock on, indeed.

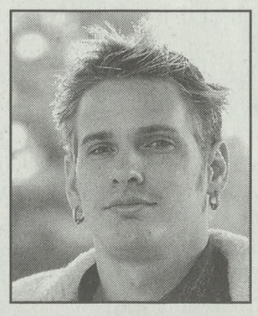
*Campus*View

Photos by Wendy Alvarado

Should UC admit students who fall below standardized requirements?

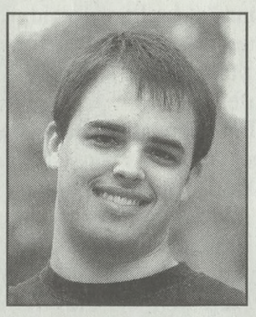
"I don't think they should be accepted because we work really hard to get into a UC, and if they take [just anyone], that would defeat the purpose."

Garry Gilman



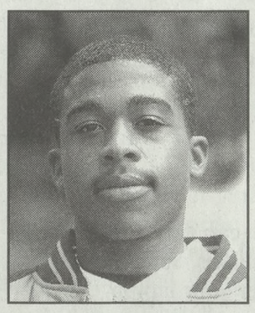
"No, because students pay for a school's reputation and if UCs accept anybody, they would lose that."

John Kirkpatrick



"I agree, they should be accepted. If a student has proved himself capable for one reason or another, they should be accepted."

Matt Michaels



"I think that [just] anybody should be accepted because grades not always reflect the knowledge that you had gained in college."

Melvin Stakely

Valley Life

CAMPUS SCENE

Wednesday, Nov. 5

Club Day
Monarch Square
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
and
Club Night
5 p.m. - 9 pm.

Thursday, Nov. 6

Dueto Tropical
Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.

Dean's Reception
Monarch Hall
2 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 7

Planetarium Show
"ET-The Real Search
Planetarium
8 p.m. (admission fee)

Sunday, Nov. 9

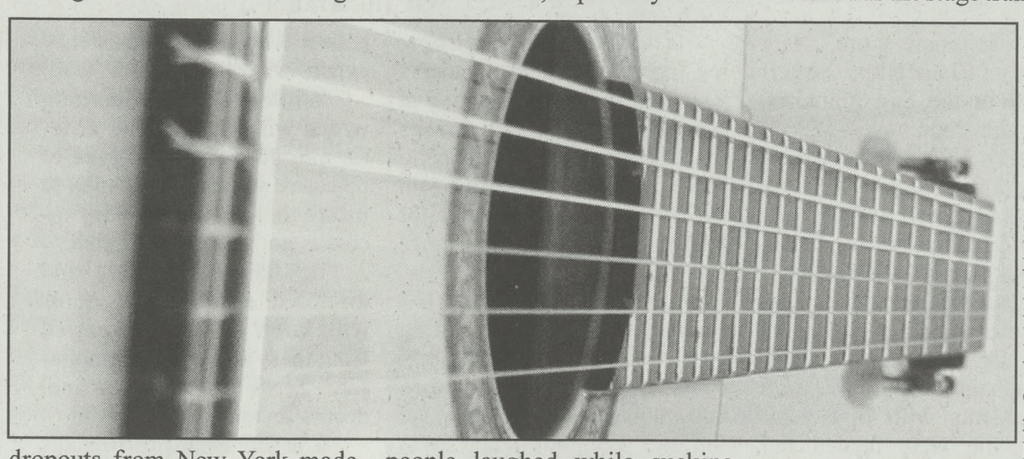
Day of the Child
Pierce College
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Strokes Deliver-Kings of Leon Roar

By Peter O'Connor
Staff Writer

As The Strokes front-man Julian Casablancas stood next to his microphone keeping himself upright the audience absorbed its' surrounding crowd to keep its' composure. Better live, Casablancas belts out bone-chilling lyrics backed by guitar riffs that take you back to The Velvet Underground's days of domination and Fabio Moretti kept it simple yet strong on the drum-kit. Drunken spectators seemed to have been at a Hollywood Palladium party The Strokes happened to be playing at.

Partygoers began at 6 p.m. outside of the Palladium in anticipation of The Strokes first show of their two-night Los Angeles stand. The Room of Fire tour is in preparation to their sophomore album release Oct. 28, Room on Fire. Many wondered if the title of the 2001 debut Is This It would hold true due to their two-year lull. Wet bars scattered in a line circling the block and tailgate-drinking contests allowed the anticipating crowd to forget that these five college



dropouts from New York made so many wait for Room on Fire.

Frontrunners Kings of Leon came to the stage with a capacity crowd at its disposal. This Tennessee quartet comprised of three brothers and a cousin have an on stage symmetry that only a family could deliver. The mustache-wearing gents staged an incredible performance — Heads bobbed, hips swayed and people laughed while sucking down $7 Heinekens. Throughout the set the crowd became more intimate, conversing made strangers into friends. Finishing off a passionate presentation backed by a loving Los Angeles crowd the tension grew as The Strokes prepared to take stage.

With the crowd ready to dance and party, lights overhead vanished as the stage transformed into a mesmerizing display of sights and sounds. Bassist Nikolai Fraiture led the way, drummer Fabrizio Moretti and guitarists Nick Valensi and Albert Hammond followed. A stumbling Casablancas stumbled out grasping the microphone to belt out an opening "Under Control" from their new album. The Strokes outdid its opening presentation with "The Modern Age," "12:51," and a treasured performance of "New York City Cops."

Sweaty bodies and beers flailed as music flowed in the bloodstream. Song after song The Strokes left the bunch embracing one another in appreciation of the exceptional performance. A foul-mouthed Casablancas took time to remember the late Elliot Smith, fellow musician, who committed suicide in his Silverlake home last week.

Set upon a stool Casablancas bowed his head, arose and took Los Angeles with him as The Strokes finished with "Is This It" classics "Soma" and "Take It or Leave It." The crowd took everything The Strokes gave and dispersed with smiles and distinct memories.

Film Review

"BILL" KILLS SPECTACULARLY

■ **Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.**

By Peter O'Connor
Staff Writer

Imagine an epic tale of revenge of all forms combined with top talent, add the creative mind of Quentin Tarantino and you'll find yourself watching "Kill Bill."

Extreme bloodshed and death are encountered all through the movie that exemplifies the warning, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."

Quentin Tarantino has returned from a six-year hiatus accompanied by the influence from his South Bay days.

Back then he worked at a video store in an area that hosted grind-houses still showing the long washed out genre of kung fu films.

Tarantino has taken elements of spaghetti westerns, Chinese martial arts, samurai epics and anime to combine all of his influences of the past 35 years into "Kill Bill - Volume 1."

After a four-year coma, a mysterious woman identified only by her assassin code name, Black Mamba, (Uma Thurman) awakens with a realization of what she must do — kill her former associates. who put her in the coma in the first place.

At the top of the list is O-Ren Ishii (Lucy Liu), boss of the Japanese Yakuza underworld.

Black Mamba proceeds with an eventful departure from her hospital bed, followed by a flight to Okinawa, where she seeks the fatal Japanese steel from the world's greatest samurai swordsmith, Hattori Hanzo, played by the great martial arts legend, Sonny Chiba.

With a month of training, rest and awakening, Black Mamba encounters O-Ren Ishii and her squad at The House of Blue Leaves.

This marvelous presentation of martial arts took a grueling eight weeks to shoot, just two weeks shy of Tarantino's entire shoot of Pulp Fiction.

Tarantino, who is almost as passionate about music as movies, has chosen groundbreaking producer of several Wu-Tang Clan albums, "The RZA" for assistance in selecting songs, producing an amazing score.

"I can't really go forward with the writing," Tarantino said, "until I find out what the opening music is going to be — the music that will put the people in the mood."

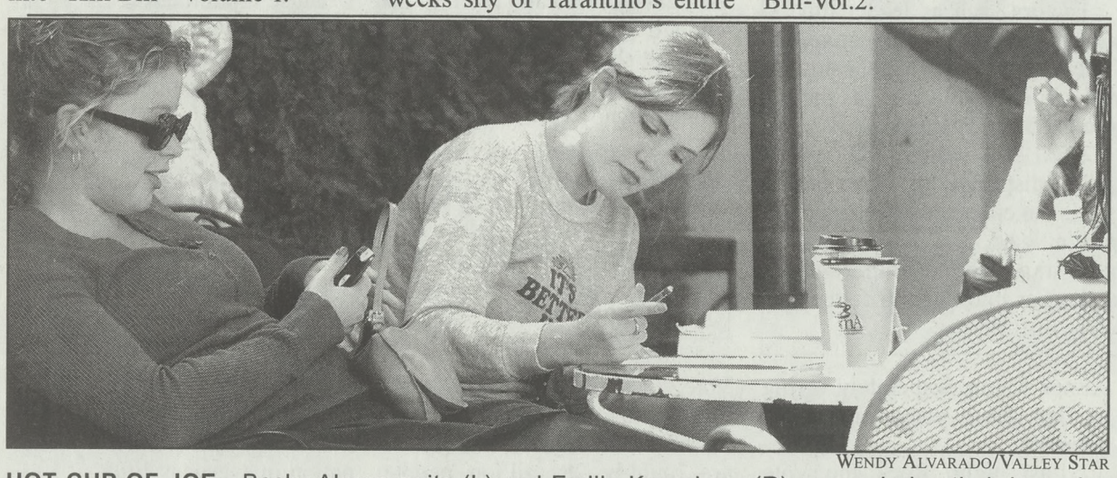
The score includes Nancy Sinatra, Isaac Hayes, The RZA, and many more scene-appropriate artists that deliver a terrific pulse to Tarantino's fourth film.

Uma Thurman delivers a passionate character looking to satisfy her life with revenge.

Tarantino leaves numerous thoughts of what is to come, which differs from previous Tarantino films in that we must only anticipate four months for the Spring 2004 release of "Kill Bill-Vol.2."

Jorge Gallegos/Valley Star

ARCHERY - Valley College is the only college that offers an archery course. Class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 11:20 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



Wendy Alvarado/Valley Star

HOT CUP OF JOE - Becky Aloramowitz (L) and Emilie Korenberg (R) pause during their busy day for a little rest and relaxation at The Aroma Cafe.

Culture On A Dime:

THE PERFECT BLEND

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
Valley Life Editor

Valley college students are halfway through the semester and by this time may be looking for a little boost, energy for that much desired "A."

Lulu's Beehive 13203 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City (818) 986-2233
Lulu's Beehive serves up the perfect complement of music, coffee and even assorted salads and sandwiches. If you are looking for a bargain, ask for a "cup of joe" Monday – Friday, between the hours of 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., it's half price.

Aroma Café 4360 Tujunga Ave.
Studio City (818) 508-6505
Nature lovers will find the perfect coffee break at the Aroma Café.
Surrounded by plush garden patio and assorted seating arrangements you can find a little corner and study to your hearts content. The Aroma Café also has assorted salads, sandwiches, and eye-catching pastries. Even though there's no internet access don't forget your laptop.

Kulak's Woodshed 5230 1/2 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
North Hollywood (818) 766-9913
Kulak's Woodshed is a little oasis were a regular joe can grab a cup of java and listen to some live acoustic music of all different genres.
A cozy setting might give you food for thought.

Kathy Arellano - THE PRO-ACTIVE

An alternative prevention.

Jacqui Brown
Staff Writer

At 39 years old Kathy Arellano took her future into her own hands and became a pro-active survivor of a disease that proved to be fatal for several female members of her family.

"I don't know if I'm a breast cancer survivor," Arellano said. "I sometimes feel like the girl standing outside of the party."

"Knowing early is the key."

Arellano has never been a stranger to breast cancer. Her grandmother died at age 42 from the disease. Three of her grandmother's sisters also died of the same disease and her mother developed breast cancer at age 48. The genetic link was strong and the possibility of Arellano suffering the same fate was too great to take a "wait-and-see" attitude.

"My mother made it a point to educate me about self examinations," Arellano said. "My mother was always on top of it and that's what probably saved her life."

Ten years after the discovery of her mother's breast cancer, Arellano, then 30 years old, took matters into her own hands. She'd already had two children, wasn't planning anymore and the more research she did, the more it seemed likely that she might follow in the footsteps of these women.

Her husband Bob was also concerned with the possibility of his wife having to face this disease and supported her decision both physically and emotionally.

"Because of her family history, we both knew that she had to do something," Bob said. "I wanted to support her in any way that I could."

She went to her doctor and explained that she needed help gathering information and requested a base-line mammogram from which all future comparisons could be taken.

Arellano went every six months, once for a mammogram then six months later for a very intense physical examination where the doctor would record what she found and how her breasts felt.

"I had been doing this for close to ten years and in December of 1987, after the mammogram my doctor said 'there's no lump, but something has changed,'" Arellano said.

At that point Arellano, on the advice of her doctor, sought two other opinions. After the third opinion of a plastic surgeon who told her she was sitting on a time bomb, she decided enough was enough and it was time to take action.

Arellano had a bilateral simple mastectomy on both breasts with reconstruction in April 1988, a very brave decision at the time, but with the full support of her husband, it seemed like the right thing to do to save her own life.

"Knowing early is the key," Arellano said. "After the surgery the doctors told me, after examining my breast tissue, that had I waited to see what would happen, the chances of my developing breast cancer by the time I was 55 was about 85 to 98 percent."

Many people have responded differently. Family members think it was the wrong thing to do. A new doctor said, "I wish you hadn't done that," but Arellano said, "I took control, I'm alive and well, so who can argue with that."

"I think Kathy was very ashamed of her scars and felt very self conscious about her looks, but I didn't care," Bob said. "In a way, I think it may have brought us closer together. We have always relied on each other when we needed support. Kathy is the most amazing person and I'm so fortunate for having her be a major part of my life."

The American Cancer Society has not yet received enough studied information on pro-active breast cancer prevention such as Arellano's profalactive mastectomies to have an accurate figure on women who, like Kathy, took their health into their own hands.

"You don't have to have cancer in the family to carry the gene," said Jane Cohen in Media Relations for the ACS. "We're currently trying to make testing for the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes more available and more affordable. There are only a small percentage of women that carry the gene and an even smaller percentage that has gotten tested and know that they carry it."

For more information on breast cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 1 (800) 227-2345 or visit their website at "http://www.cancer.org" www.cancer.org to find low cost or free breast cancer screening.

Valley Life

Film Review

Portrait of a Sociopath

■ **"Shattered Glass" chronicles the rise and fall of a journalistic superstar.**

By Michael Ordoña
Opinion Editor

There are three good reasons to be wary of "Shattered Glass," the story of disgraced New Republic writer Stephen Glass.

First, Glass himself is the definitive unreliable narrator, casting doubt on the veracity of any account of his life. Second, first-time director Billy Ray's writing résumé contains 1994's infamously bad "Color of Night" and 2002's relentlessly dull "Hart's War" (both Bruce Willis vehicles).

Third, Glass is played by Hayden Christensen (spectacularly awful in "Star Wars Episode II").

It puts a chill down the spine of anyone interested in journalism

Nevertheless, "Shattered Glass" works very well on several levels. As a character study, Christensen's Glass is a desperate, glistening toady whose torturous need to be liked can be blamed for much of his misconduct. As a suspense story, the filmmakers effectively hang his inevitable unveiling over the audience's head. As a cautionary tale, it puts a chill down the spine of anyone interested in journalism or who reads political commentary.

Christensen is just fine, although his mannered lip-wetting and impetuous panting occasionally spark painful flashbacks of a galaxy far, far away. The supporting cast is loaded, with Chloë Sevigny, multidimensional and convincing as a smart colleague seduced by Glass's masquerade and a solid, compassionate Hank Azaria as well-respected editor Michael Kelly.

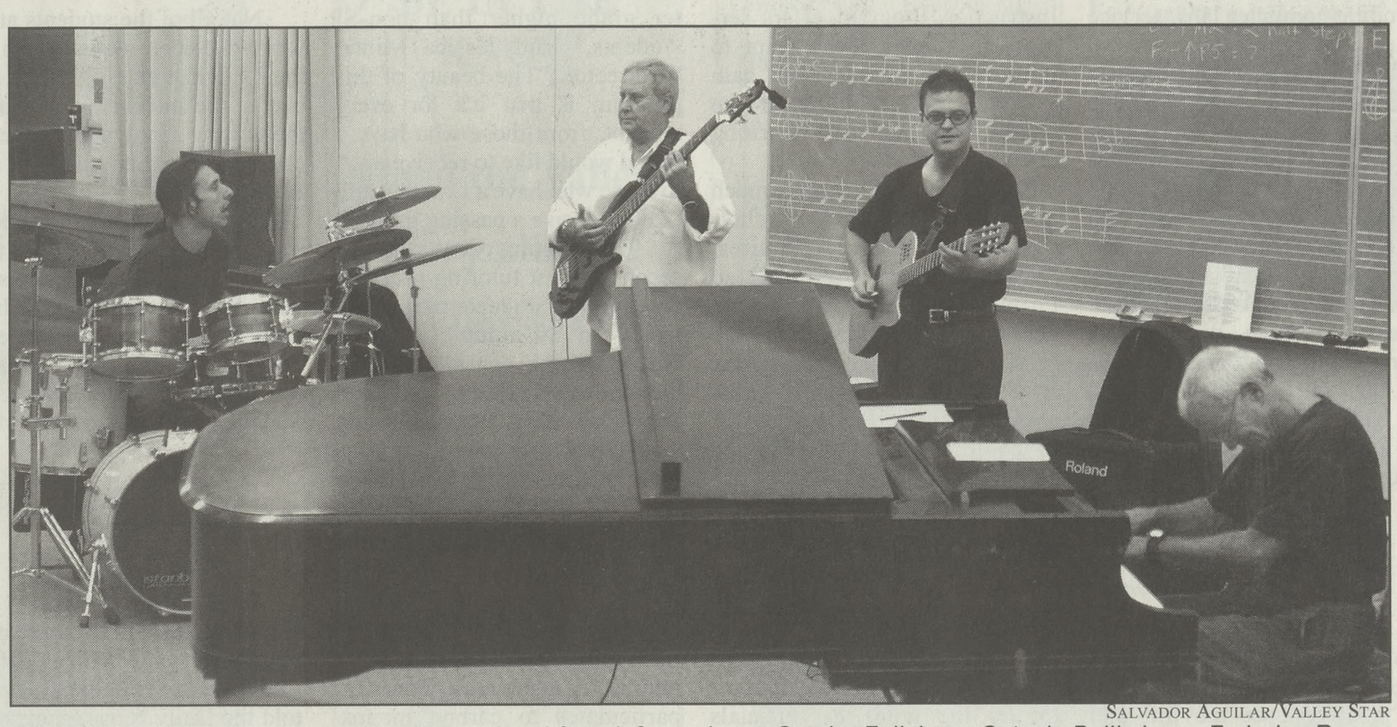
But it's Peter Sarsgaard ("Boys Don't Cry") as Glass's colleague and rival who anchors the film. This highly skilled but mostly unknown actor provides emotional and intellectual weight as he pieces the puzzle together.

"Shattered Glass" depicts its subject as an anxious little fellow who spirals down the rabbit hole.

That's supportable, but when one considers how elaborate his web of deceit was, another portrait comes into focus: That of a sociopath.

The real Glass seemed to think he was above the rules. Betrayal was just a tool for his advancement, evidenced by the alacrity with which he generated a pseudo-fictional work about his experience.

The movie is good, but one wishes it wouldn't have shied away from holding its subject completely accountable for his crimes against his friends, coworkers, and journalism itself.



Salvador Aguilar/Valley Star

BRAZILIAN JAZZ - Members of Velas jazz band from left, on drums Sandro Feliciano, Octavio Bailly bass, Federico Ramos guitar and Frank Zottoli piano played at the latest campus concert series sponsored by the Music Department and the Associated Student Union.

VELAS BAND JAZZES UP VALLEY

By Benjamin Favela
Photo Editor

From people standing in the back and in the aisles to people sitting in their chairs, heads bobbed and feet tapped to the beats and rhythms of Brazilian jazz band Velas during the band's performance in music room 112 Thursday.

The smell of the room, much like that of cheap perfume mixed with Ben-Gay, welcomed concert goers and, whether the natural aroma of the room or not, it added to the ambience and feel of the performance.

The band that featured Brazilian Octavio Bailly on bass, Brazilian Sandro Feliciano on drums, Uruguayan Federico Ramos on guitar and American Frank Zottoli on keyboard began without introduction into the jazzy "Triste."

After finishing the opening number Zottoli introduced the members of the band, each being accompanied by applause.

The band's performance included some of their original compositions, as well as songs written by some of the band's their favorite composers, including Johnny Mandel's "Emily," a slow, moving number put to a Brazilian jazz beat, and Angeleno Claire Fisher's "Morning," which gave the band an opportunity to move away from their traditional genre and play salsa.

Sherline Miller, director of activities at the Woodland Park Retirement Hotel in Woodland Hills, often brings seniors from the hotel to enjoy the music department's weekly Thursday concerts. Miller couldn't help but dance in her seat during Velas' performance of "Morning."

"It was delicious," Miller said. "This was the best seven-course meal "I've had in a long time."

Feliciano, with a seemingly static smile on his face, and Zottoli, with his erratic movements in tune with the music, often played against each other, battling and staring at each other during each song, as if begging the other to top his last note.

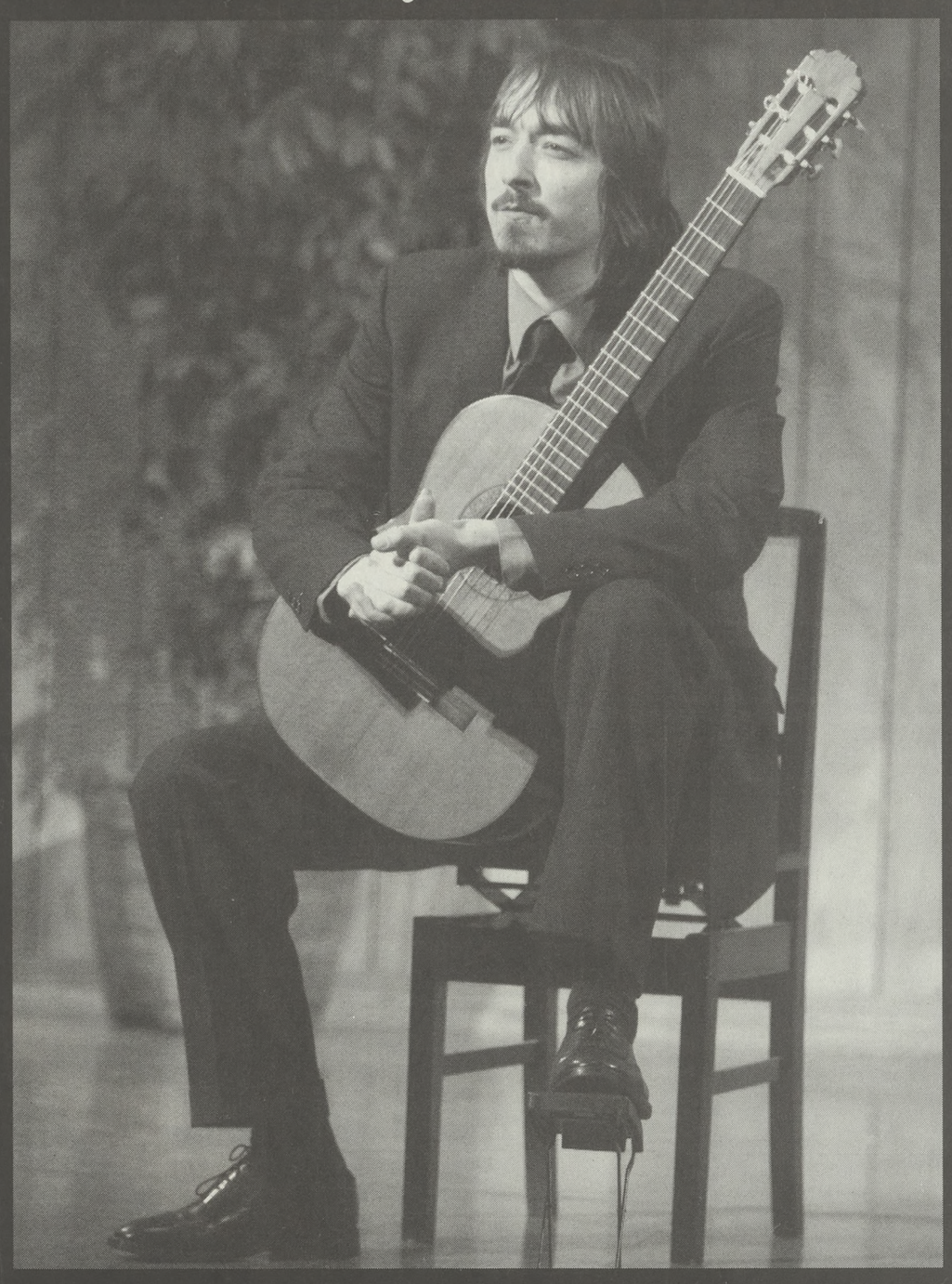
The band invited their friend , student Katia Moraes to assist them by singing a song almost everybody in the audience knew: Antoio Carlos Jobim's bossa nova classic "The Girl From Ipanema." Moraes' smooth, sultry voice accented the late morning performance and brought joy to many.

"The drummer has a great amount of activity and energy," music Scott Falke said. "The bassist has magic fingers, he moves faster than any other bass player I've seen."

The band's perfornace also impressed psychology student Syreeta Batiste "The Velas band signified a style that was distinct from many jazz bands in the United States. Around the world, actually."

ANYTHING BUT SECOND BEST

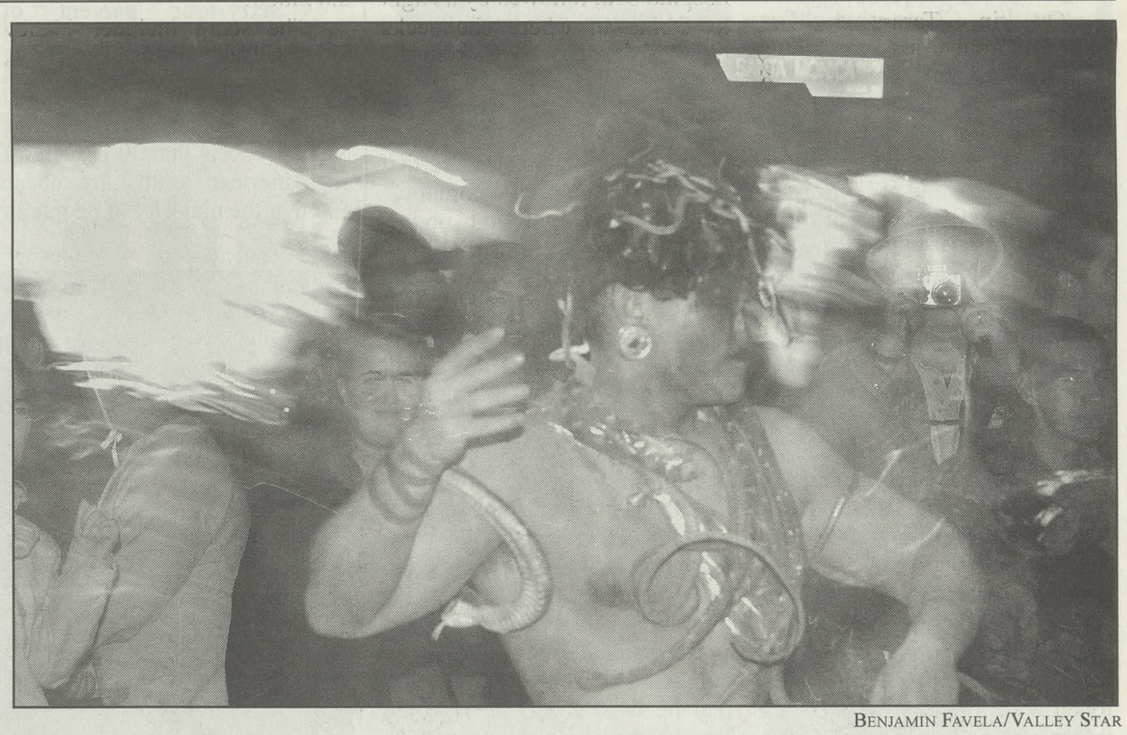
By Tammy Abbott
Valley Life Editor



Surprise greeted music lovers as they arrived and found an alternate guitarist, Francois Foweler performing in the Music Recital Hall last week.

"The Guitar Foundation America competition is so keen that it's hard to determine a winner," Professor Mayeur said. After reassuring the audiece of the fine quality that Fowler, the second place winner of the GFA, would perform he asked that the audience decide for themselves.

Foweler gave a wonderful performance and delighted the audience with the substitute, according to their loud applause.



Benjamin Favela/Valley Star

HALLOWEEN DECADENCE - A costumed man dances during a musical performance at the 16th annual West Hollywood Halloween Carnaval Friday.

Elliott Smith Makes A Figure 8

By Peter O'Connor
Staff Writer

Elliott Smith delivered a rock sound that allowed the listener to feel and relate to his or her own life. We are left with what Elliott has created in the past years as he has taken his life from us by a self-inflicted stab wound to the chest that left him dead in his Silverlake home in October.

Smith left many answers to his seemingly long-awaited death as he lived a dark and unhappy life involved with drug addiction that he occasionally showed through his lyrics. Much like Kurt Cobain, a veteran of the Pacific Northwest indie-rock scene for many years, Smith left a trail of evidence allowing one to consider that his suicide was no surprise at all.

As Cobain shared his drug induced thrill rides on Nirvana's first album "Bleach," sings, "You ought to be proud/That I'm getting good marks," on his second, showing us just how bad off they were in the downward spiral with drug use. What takes you away from the tragic death of Smith is the ability he had to break through his string sections with a voice that would captivate even the happiest of souls. His words were lyrical and solid but presented a complicated theme throughout his five albums.

Smith, a lonely soul, wandered the streets of Manhattan instead of the drug-packed areas of Old Town Portland that led Smith to alcoholism and bitter rejection of society.

The 34-year-old Smith continued to Los Angeles for detox and was working on the upcoming release of a sixth album, From a Basement on the Hill. Smith was working hard to come out of the trenches and clean his life up. Although the rumor-mills have been working overtime in the past three years in regards to his drug use, such as tales of Smith nodding-off between songs at various shows, and fabrications about finding him blacked out in the bathroom stall of a Silverlake club with a needle in his arm, he continued to provide his listeners with a heart-wrenching emotion that you could feel.

Elliott Smith was not about being famous or taking the mainstage and spotlight; Smith was in pain and delivered it through his music. He was frank and to the point in his song lyrics, as well as his interviews. If one ever got that chance to hear or see Smith during an interview, you could see the tiredness in his eyes and hear the person wanting to escape life in his voice. He did not hide his drug and alcohol abuse and was never frightened to share his suicidal tendencies. "It's ugly and cruel and I really need my friends to stick around," said Smith in a 2001 Magnet magazine interview. "Dying people should have that right. I was hospitalized for a little while and I didn't have that option, and it made me crazier."

In his 1998 song "Amity," Smith sang, "God don't make no junk but it's plain to see, He still made me, He told me so, I'm good to go, I'm ready to go." The singer/songwriter gave us five albums and we can hope for the release of his sixth in the coming months. A man without anyone to heal his wounds inflicted a deeper one upon his soul and took his life away from us. Elliott Smith was tired of life and ready to go. RIP Elliott Smith 1969-2003

'Tutoring' continued from page 2

said. "I have learned how to read English, enunciate, but the most important thing is that I have learned how to use more words in the English language."

Due to the recent budget cuts all of the tutoring programs had to cut back on several services, including computer labs, service hours, and tutors, however, all of them are trying to make due with the little resources available to them.

"Some of our sister colleges have really been suffering due to the budget cuts, some have even cut out tutoring from their programs all together," said Phyllis Yasuda, learning center director. "President Tyree Wieder, has been very instrumental throughout the campus in dealing with the budget cuts, and thanks to her and to the faculty we have been able to make due."

"With facing budget cuts, the important thing is that we don't cut back on the students needs," said Waxman. "We have to continue to make tutoring available for students when they need it."

The Supplemental Instruction Program offers services to students who want to improve their grades and gain a better understanding of the course material in a learning environment.

"I don't really know much about this program," psychology student Melody Ramirez. "My statistics class offers SI, so I came to see if they can help me better understand statistics."

Instead of targeting at-risk students, the program targets at-risk courses, the ones known to be difficult for students to succeed in. These courses are easy to identify, just look for the footnote indicating that SI is offered with that class in the class schedule and enroll.

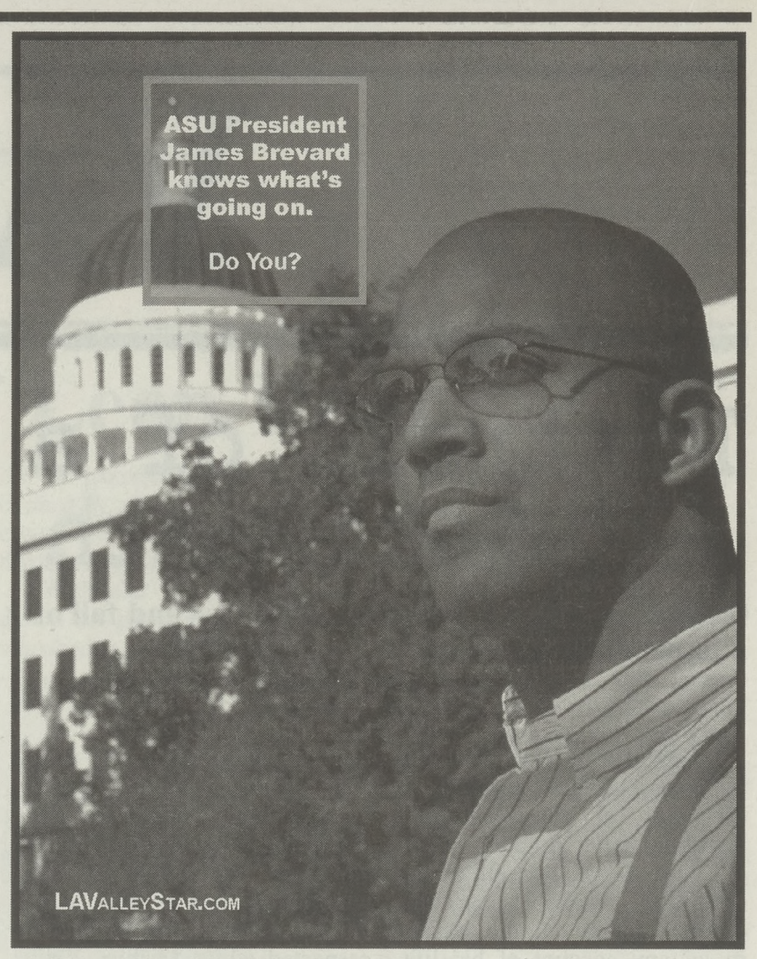
"We have found that if you take a class and divide it in half, those students with the SI option earn from half to a whole letter grade higher than non-SI students," said Jessica Mintz, SI director. "The beauty of this program is that it's for every student, from those who have a B and would like to receive an A to those who have a D and would like to receive a passing grade."

The Writing Center is the second largest tutoring program on campus. Students participate in 20 to 30 minute sessions where writing consultants help the students with any questions they may have regarding any work they are having trouble with. Students are then asked to proceed with writing their papers on their own.

Students who use the writing center succeed at a 10 percent higher rate than students who don't, according to Deborah Harrington, writing center director.

Not all of the students at the writing center request help for their English class. "Thirty percent of the students who come to the writing center are enrolled in courses other than English," said Harrington.

"My interest is that students be given every opportunity they need to succeed," Waxman said. "It's known that tutors have been of great help to students. The important thing is that it continues to be available for students to take advantage of."



'Impact' continued from page 2

and North Hollywood resident who commutes around Los Angeles for work.

"I drive over the hill and there it is, that brown haze, I go out towards Ventura and it gets worse; everywhere I look I'm disgusted."

Throughout Los Angeles, the air quality was declared unhealthy or unhealthy for sensitive individuals. In downtown Los Angeles, about 30 miles from the nearest fire, the sky was covered in a gray pall and people were complaining of watery eyes, headaches, scratchy throats and other ailments.

Southern California already ranks as one of worst regions for air quality nationwide, according to recent statistics. In San Diego County, one of the areas hardest hit by the wildfires, officials said air quality had never been this poor for such an extended period of time since the County started measuring air quality in the 1950s.

"I am pretty loose about letting my kids go outside and play at the park or participate in sports," said Wendy Thomas of Valley Village. "They are not letting our kids out for recess and I am not letting them go to football practice. The air is unhealthy there is nothing we can do but protect ourselves from it.

The smoke produced by the raging wildfires contains a number of pollutants, from fine particulates to carbon monoxide to cancer-causing toxic air contaminants such as benzo-a-pyrene, air quality officials said.

The particulates circulating in the air can be microscopic, in many cases 1/30th the width of a human strand of hair. "These are the ones we're particularly concerned about because they do get into your respiratory system, deep into the respiratory tract," said Fielding.

Most health officials said they thought the health risks from the smoke and air pollution were only short-term, but Dr. Zab Mosenfair, director of pulmonary and critical care at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center told the Daily News he expected to see increased bronchial hyperactivity in the general population, more respiratory difficulties in the elderly, and a higher risk of children developing lung illnesses.

The fires ranging from the Mexican border to Ventura County destroyed more than 3,300 homes, charred 750,000 acres and left more than 20 people dead. The fires rank among the worst in the state's history.

'Fires' continued from page 1

thing is that there are always cattle grazing on the hill (above us) and it is believed that about 200 head of cattle were lost to the flames."

Fundraising efforts around the Southland continue to bring in the much-needed cash to aid the fire victims for their immediate needs, according to the American Red Cross. An event held on Thursday at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena by the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the Red Cross raised $241,398.

"We see people coming from every community to support this effort," said Gregory Jones, director of Health Safety and Community Service for the Red Cross. "This is really necessary because the needs of the community, the victims of this fire, are going to go on for upwards of a year depending on what needs to be rebuilt."

One of the smallest donors that showed up at the event, 5 year-old Julianna Ong, came to do what she could along with her mother and brother by donating food for fire victims that lost everything. When asked what the first thing she did when she heard about kids that lost everything she said, "First we prayed for them and now we're giving them food."

'Workshop' continued from page 1

demanding sexual favors, sexist jokes and unsolicited contact are some examples of sexual harassment.

"I feel sexual harassment isn't a big issue on campus," business student Jim Clutes said. "I've never been harassed or heard of anyone being harassed."

In the 2002-2003 school year Divine handled 35 discrimination cases, 18 formal (written and reported) and 17 informal that Divine resolved with the involved parties. Ten of the 18 resulted in letters of determination by the college president and four of the remaining cases had evidence, with the others either unfounded or lacking evidence. Out of the 35, 19 were resolved.

Students are referred to Divine if a problem occurs or if a student comes to a faculty member with an issue. She goes over the issue with the student, determines the seriousness, sees to it that the issue is addressed in the necessary manner and follows up on it. She tries to stay in touch with a person who comes to her with a complaint, although sometimes a student doesn't want to be reminded of the issue, Divine said.

Many cases are settled without filing. Most are resolved through mediation between conflicting parties. "There are ways to address problems before they become discrimination in the legal sense," Divine said.

"I think sexual harassment is a problem," computer science student Pamela Baxter said, "because it's bad enough dealing with the stress of classes rather than focusing your attention on unwanted sexual advances."

Sometimes things said by faculty are offensive, these may be handled administratively in a conference or the person may make an announcement to a class clarifying his or her intentions. Divine has dealt with a range of complaints, from inappropriate pictures to comments of a sexual nature to requests for sexual favors. So far there has been nothing this semester that has risen to a formal complaint.

"Students may not understand that the college administration takes this issue very seriously and they don't want the college environment interrupted," Divine said. "There might be some things going on that I haven't heard about and if we don't know about them we'd like to."

If an incident occurs that seems to be sexual harassment, a person should clearly tell the harasser that the behavior is unwelcome. If the behavior persists, a letter addressing the problem and informing the harasser that he or she will be reported should be written. Incidents should never be ignored, they will only persist if not addressed. It is also good to keep a record of the incidents including date, time, place, witnesses and nature of the harassment.

Kay Divine can be reached at (818) 947-2462 or in campus center 108.Specific rules and procedures for reporting sexual harassment charges and pursuing remedies can be found in the Los Angeles Community College District board rules in chapter 15, section 1501-151

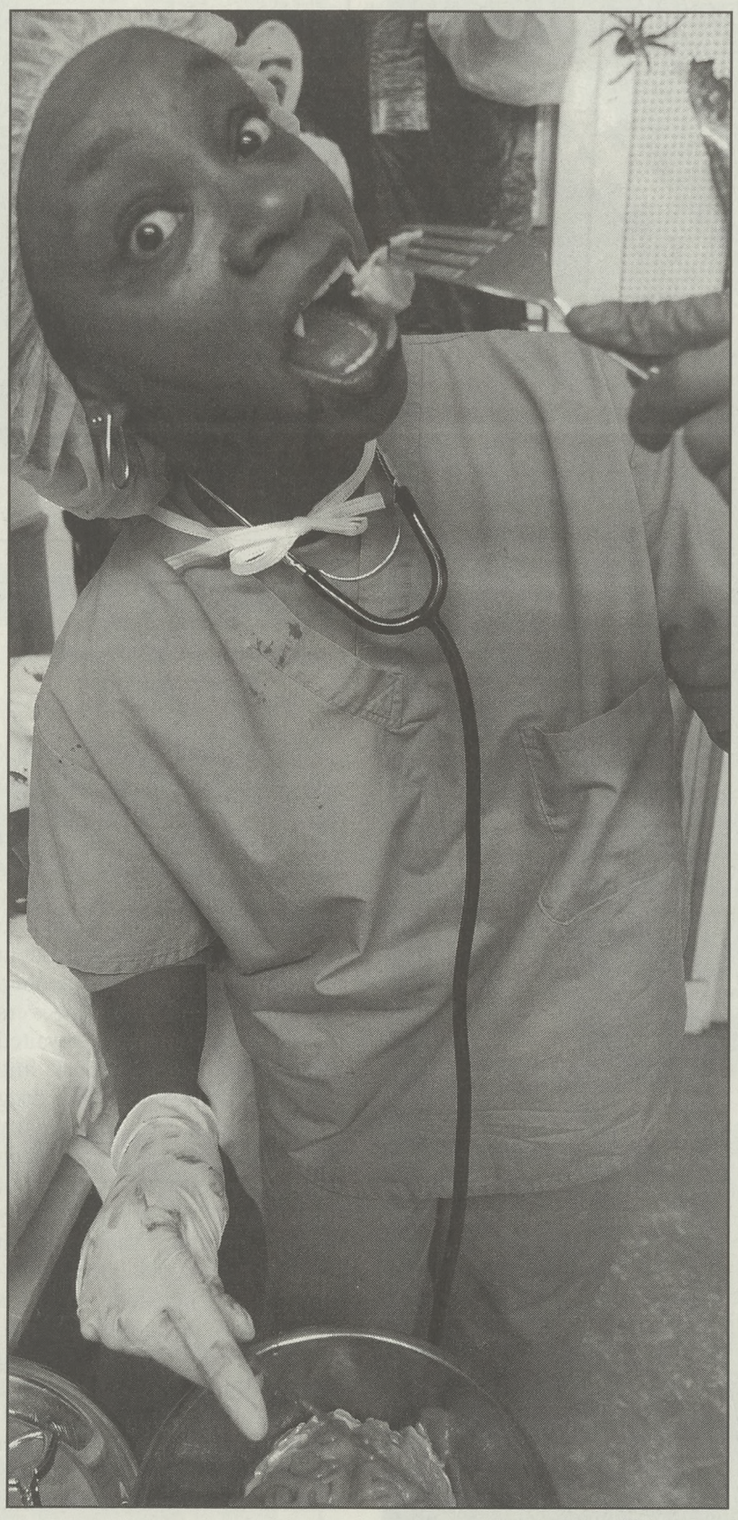
'Obesity' continued from page 2

"I bought a pedometer for $20. Each day I can see how many steps I am taking. I walk about 4,000 steps a day now and I want to work up to 10,000," Klein-Hass said.

Sixty-four percent of adults and 15 percent of adolescents and children are overweight, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. The NCHS reports that 30 percent of all American adults are obese and that the majority of people in the United States have poor eating habits. For example, only 28 percent of women and 20 percent of men eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

More than 60 percent of adults do not engage in levels of physical activity needed to provide health benefits, the organization said.

Obesity is defined as having a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or more.



Tammy Abbott/Valley Star

MMMMM GOOD - English professor Cheryl Stoneham not only works with students' brains, she eats them too. The English office tied for first place with reprographics in the spooky office contest on Halloween.

'Commute' continued from page 1

"It took my parents a while to understand why I was still at Valley College," Amato said. "Once they realized that they never saw me because I was either at school or work and on the road at all other times, they sympathized and saw where the education system was heading in California."

Commuters are taking a financial hit in this process as well. Amato travels back and forth on the 101 commuting from Burbank to Northridge and then back to Valley Glen in the evenings. Many students now have a hard time making ends meet because commuting takes away from valuable work hours. The recent MTA strike has left many more people, not just students, commuting all over town, causing grid locked freeways and jammed side streets.

"I'm spending far more on gas each week than I can afford," said Debbie Lassen, Valley and Pierce student. "My schedule doesn't permit me to carpool and I don't know how I'm going to get by."

An ugly Southland commute is causing drivers like Lassen to wear down and loose patience. With so much time and worry on the road, some students are having trouble getting the grades they desire with little or not time to dedicate to their studies.

"After a long day of driving and work," Lassen said, "I just want to get home and relax. I'm tired."

'Prop A' continued from page 2

company for all proposition A work, is overseeing the LEED program.

When construction begins students will have to maximize use of parking lots B, D and G while other lots are being built upon. "People are going to have to walk further during construction projects. Unfortunately it's the reality of the construction phase. We want to minimize the disruption of the campus as best we can."

URS and Valley administration plan to put a timeline of the planning and construction and the revised budget online. There is no set date to have the information online yet.

Upcoming programming includes the music, theater arts, arts, planetarium, student services and administration buildings. Demolition contracts must be drawn up and a food consultant must be chosen to determine what food services will be offered after the cafeteria demolition. . "There's still a lot to be decided," O'Brien said at the end of the meeting.

"It's going slower that I wanted it to, but I've talked with other campuses and consultants and that's just the nature of the work," Wieder said. "We want to see a shovel in the ground. There's a lot

Campus Crime

By Jacqui Brown
Staff Writer

Grand Theft Auto
A 1991 Honda Prelude was stolen from Lot A at Valley between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m Friday. Police are currently investigating this crime.

****

Vandalism
One of the cafeteria windows was smashed by unknown vandals with newspaper rack. There were no witnesses.

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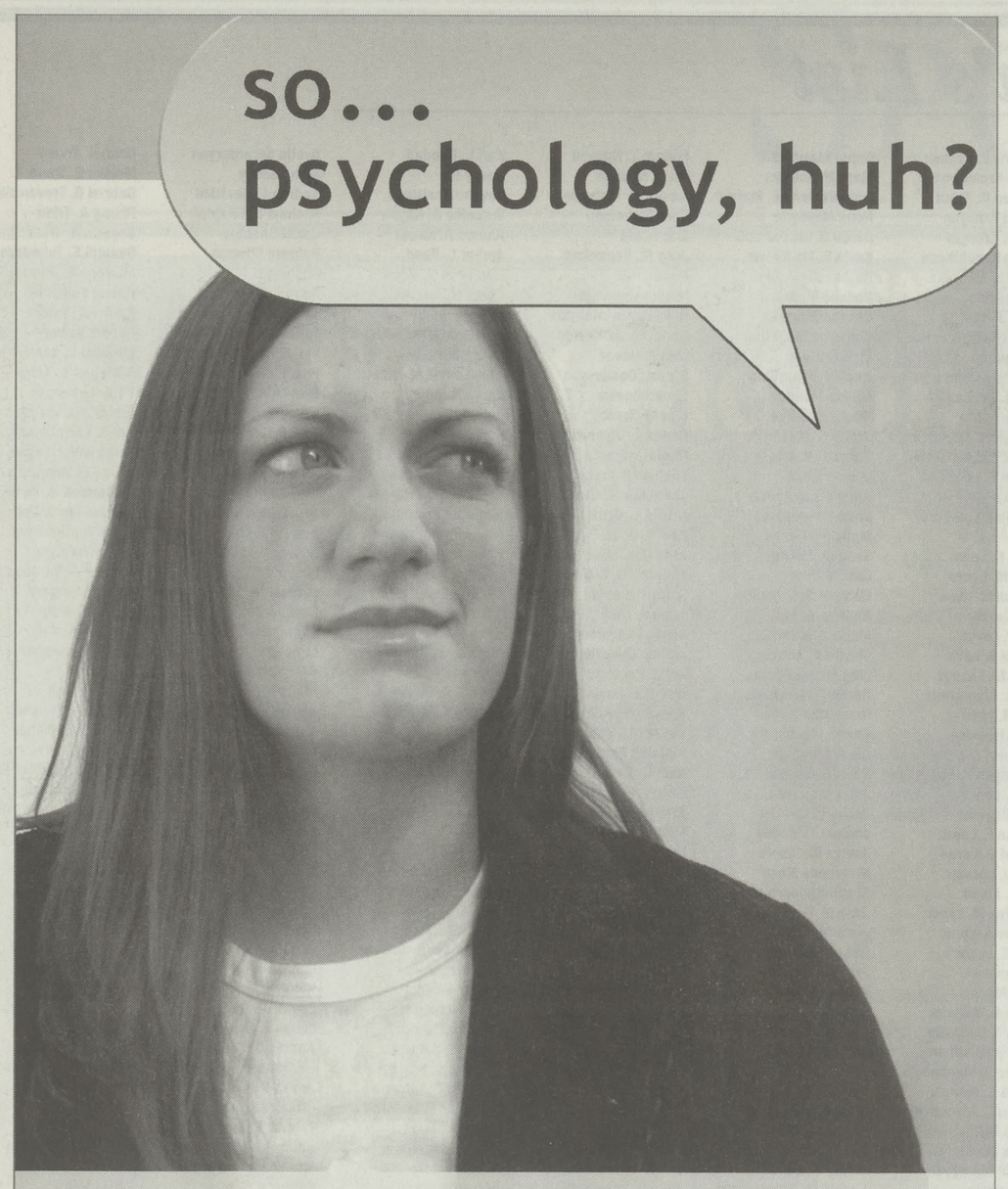
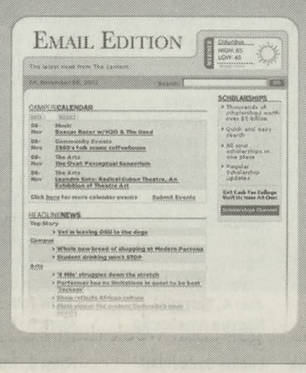


Way to go buddy.
You finally worked up the nerve to talk to that girl from Psych 101, but you still sounded like a doofus with nothing intelligent to say.
That's where we come in.



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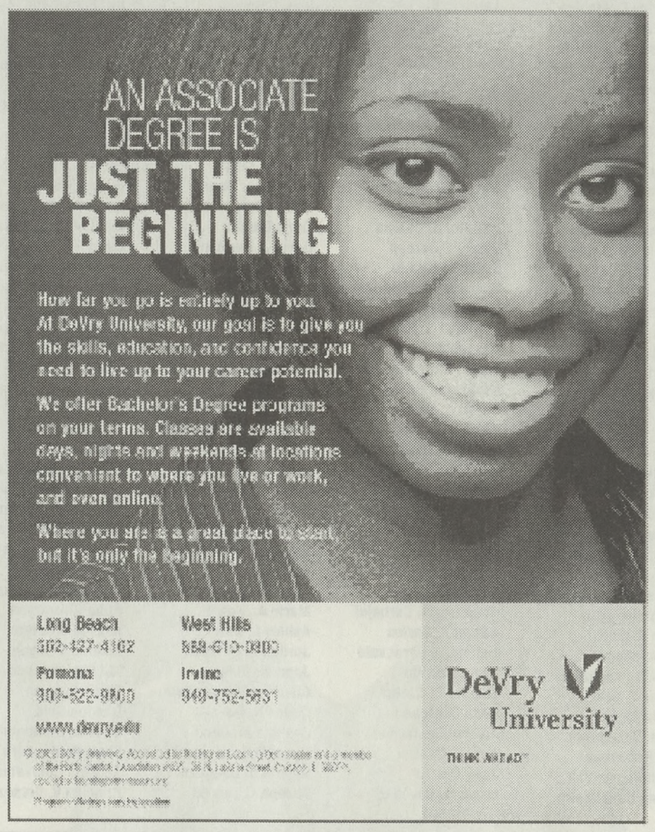
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MONARCH PLAYER PROFILE

The One-on-One Specialist

■ **Virginia Granados leads Valley's offensive attack.**

By Jorge Gallegos
Staff Writer

The "12" on the back of Virginia Granados' jersey is all defenders can catch a glance of as she sprints all over the attacking zone. The flashy forward has the ability to beat players one-on-one and the power in her legs to blast the ball into the back of the net from almost anywhere on the field.

"She is a natural," Head Coach Eric Archila said. "She has been blessed with natural skills that would take a long time for any coach to teach other players."

Granados began playing soccer at the age of 14 in her native Mexico. "It was weird. Women's soccer was not too common in Mexico at the time," she said.

She started playing on the same team as her mother when she was young, and they shared unforgettable moments on the field together. Virginia fondly remembers a time when she got into a fight after her mother was fouled hard.

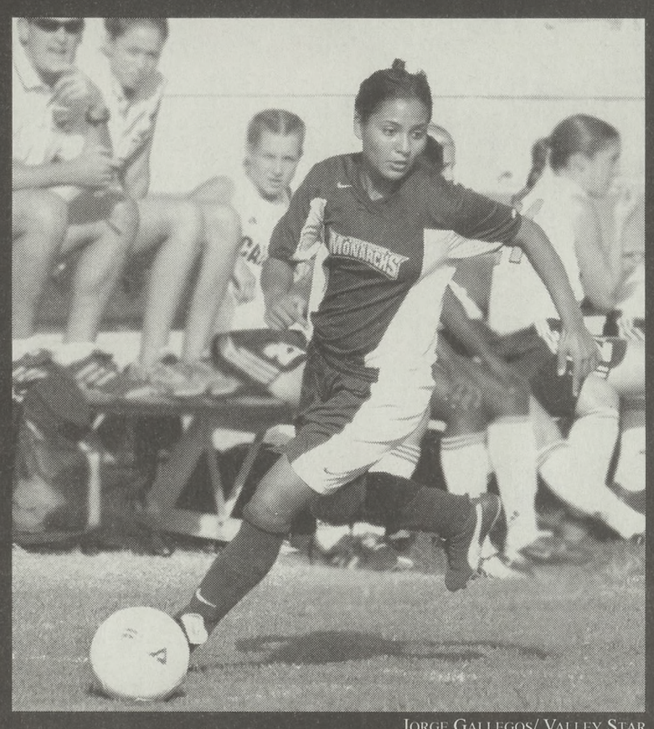
As one of the key players on this years Lady Monarchs soccer team, she has demonstrated great talent and amazing dribbling skills.

Granados recalls when her father would take her to the park and practice with her. "He would beat me and make me look bad," Granados said. "He would do tricks and moves on me, but now I'm the one who does the tricks on him."

The offensive star would like to continue playing soccer after Valley, at any university that would be willing to offer her a scholarship.

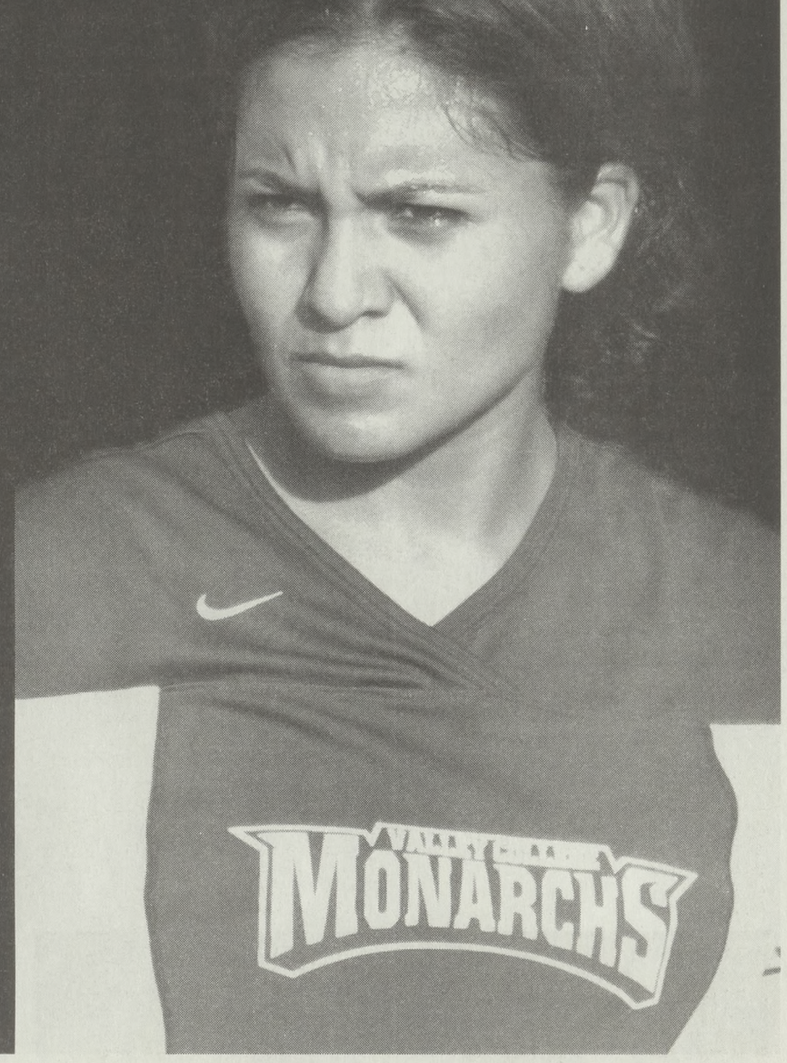
SOCCER
Upcoming Schedule
Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference

Opponent	Date	Time
Pierce	11/7	3 p.m.
@ SMC	11/10	3 p.m.



Jorge Gallegos/ Valley Star
THE RUNNING WOMAN - Vicky Granados heads down field in search of an open shot.

PIERCE BRAHMAS Valley Glen, CA ■ Friday 3 p.m.



LAVC SCORES

Football @ Hancock (L 44-9) 11/1/03 Record: 1-7
T. George suspended for remainder of season for drug possession

Soccer @ Bakersfield (L 1-2) 10/24/03 Record: 7-6-2

Water Polo (w) vs. Canyons (W 21-8) 10/25/03 Record: 1-6
CURRENT RANKING: Seventh in California

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11/5/03
No Scheduled Games

Thursday 11/6/03
No Scheduled Games

Friday 11/7/03
Soccer vs. Pierce 3 p.m.
Men's Water Polo @ WSCT all day
Women's Water Polo @ WSCT all day

Saturday 11/8/03
Men's Water Polo @ WSCT all day
Women's Water Polo @ WSCT all day
Football vs. Ventura 1 p.m.

Monday 11/10/03
Soccer @ SMC 3 p.m.

Tuesday 11/11/03
No Scheduled Games

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers vs. G.S. Warriors (W 87-72) 11/2/03
Shaquille O'Neal: 17 pts, 14 rb, 2 ast
Kobe Bryant: 21 pts, 4 rb, 5 ast
Gary Payton: 10 pts, 6 rb, 11 ast
LAL Record: 3-0

L.A. Clippers vs. Seattle Sonics (L 105-125) 11/2/03
Corey Maggette: 26 pts, 3 rb, 1 ast
Marko Jaric: 8 pts, 1, 5 ast
Peja Drobnjak: 10 pts, 8 rb, 2 ast
LAC Record: 0-2

Ana. Mighty Ducks vs. Ch. Blackhawks (OT 1-1) 10/26/03
GOALS: Chicago - Calder
Anaheim - Lupul

L.A. Kings vs. Ch. Blackhawks (L 2-3) 10/25/03
LAL Record: 4-4-0-0
CB Record: 3-4-2-0

In Their Own Words

"I don't care if anybody tells me anything."

Oteri Akpovi,
Lady Monarchs stopper,
to coach Erik Archila after he told her to stop complaining about calls she felt she should have received.

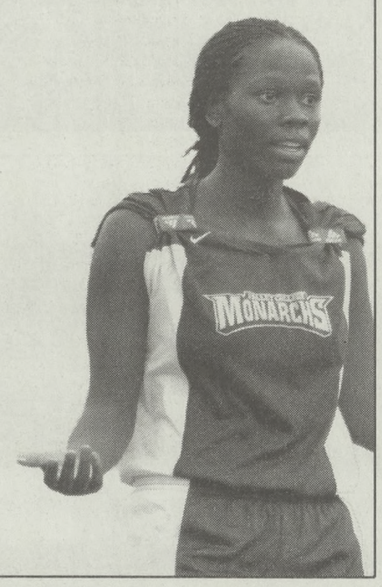


Photo by Jorge Gallegos

On Life Support

■ **Valley football is desperate for a win after recording its seventh consecutive loss.**

By Jayson Addcox
Sports Editor

Depleted and down, the Monarchs football team fell further into the cellar of their division by losing to Hancock College 44-9 in Santa Maria Saturday. The team has suffered numerous injuries to their offensive line limiting their offensive to a league worst 232.3 yards a game.

"It's hard to be successful on offense when the offensive line is depleted," Head Coach Ron Ponciano said.

The team has been dependent on their defense the entire year, however, the loss of Tearrius George due to an off-the-field incident earlier in the week did not help an already overmatched squad. The Bulldogs picked the Monarchs apart for 441 yards on defense, leaving the Monarchs unable to score an offensive touchdown.

"Right now we need to prepare for the last two games," Ponciano said. "We're playing two teams that we can beat, the hard part is getting some of the players who haven't played as much ready."

The only bright spot of the game for the Monarchs came in the fourth quarter when receiver Don Daniels took a kick-off 97-yards for a touchdown. The dazzling display of speed by Daniels tied a school record held by James Norris who accomplished the same feat in 2001.

With only two games left in the season the Monarchs must make some much needed improvements on offense to avoid ending this disastrous season in last place.

"In light of the bad year the guys need to understand were a young team," Ponciano said.

The Monarchs (1-7) host Ventura College Saturday at Monarch Stadium.

AN OPINION

Family Feud

By Jayson Addcox
Sports Editor

The recent feud between Los Angeles Lakers' superstars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant has prompted people to believe that the Lakers need to get rid of Bryant. Los Angeles Times sports columnist Bill Plaschke wrote just that in a recent article, saying that maybe the Lakers would be better off without Kobe and his off-the-court problems.

I disagree. Bryant is a franchise player who deserves to have a team built around him. O'Neal and Bryant have clashed in the past, but they've also won three championships together. This is nothing new.

Trade Kobe? That's something to worry about.

At 25 years old, Bryant is one of the leagues best shooting guards and arguably the best player in the NBA. His personality and attitude in the locker room is questionable at times, but his play in the final minutes of crucial games is remarkable. Lakers owner Jerry Buss would be making a disastrous mistake by trading Bryant or allowing him to opt out of his contract in the summer.

"I'm not about to trade my son. Kobe is clearly going to end up on a level that maybe only two or three other players have achieved, and I want to be around to see him when he reaches his peak, which is still many years away," said Buss.

Imagine the rest of the league drooling at the opportunity to acquire the league's most dynamic player. Imagine the Sacramento Kings with Bryant at guard, the San Antonio Spurs running the break with Tim Duncan and Bryant, or the Minnesota Timber wolves featuring the "Kid" Kevin Garnett, Latrell Spreewell, and Bryant all in the same line-up. I don't want imagine any such thing. The Lakers don't want to imagine being spanked on the court by their once beloved teenager.

The Lakers feature a team this year that is ridiculous. Karl Malone and Gary Payton come to L.A. to play with fellow future Hall-of-Famers O'Neal and Bryant. However, Malone and Payton are borderline over the hill, and O'Neal's toe and over-all health probably won't allow him to play four more years.

Thus, enter Kobe Bryant — young, dominate and franchise material. The Lakers' best chance to build a dynasty is to build it around their best player. Forget the feud, as we have for the last four years, O'Neal and Bryant will once again embrace at the end of another championship run. That is if they're in the same uniform.

WOMEN'S WATER POLO
Upcoming Schedule
Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference

Opponent	Location	Date	Time
WSC Tourney	TBA	11/7-8	All Day
Wild Card Playoffs	TBA	11/12	All Day
So. Cal. Playoffs	TBA	11/14-15	All Day

NOTES

MLB
The Philadelphia Phillies upgraded their bullpen Monday by acquiring closer Billy Wagner. Wagner was 1-4 with a 1.78 ERA and 47 saves last season with the Houston Astros

MLB
The New York Yankees hired former Yankee great Don Mattingly to be their hitting coach Monday.

NBA
The Los Angeles Lakers, winners of their first three games, continue their four-game road trip against the defending champions San Antonio Spurs Thursday.

NBA
The defending champion San Antonio Spurs are hurting early in the season. The Spurs already without point guard Tony Parker (ankle injury) lost center Tim Duncan Monday against the Memphis Grizzlies. Duncan left the game with a mild ankle sprain and recieved an MRI Tuesday.

NBA
Cleveland Cavaliers guard Dejuan Wagner will be out for three months after having surgery on his right knee. Wagner hasn't played since entering training camp for the 2003 season.

NBA
The NBA confirmed the 2004 NBA All-Star weekend will be held at Staples Center in L.A.

Olympics
Wayne Gretzky, who lead the Canadian hockey team to its first gold medal in 50 years at the 2002 Olympics, is planning on doing the same in the 2004 Olympic games.

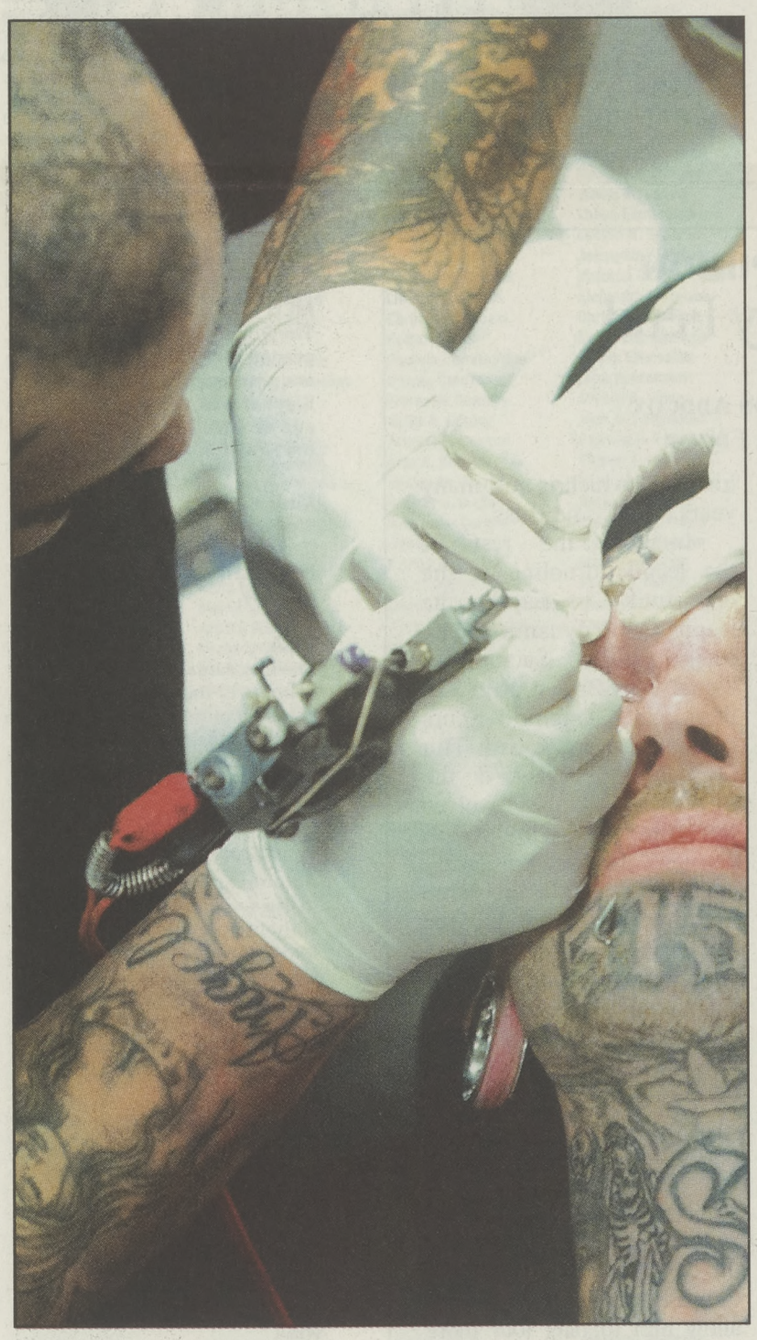
NFL
The Cleveland Browns suspended running back William Green for one game Monday. Head coach Butch Davis suspended Green because he was disappointed that his top running back was charged with a DUI.

College Football
Former Ohio State running back Maurice Clarret dropped his federal complaint seeking a $2.5 million fine against the university for releasing information from an NCAA investigation to prosecutors.

TATTOOS: It's In the Skin

Text by LaGina Phillips, Photos and Layout by Wendy Alvarado

"I only have one tattoo, it's just a very big one."



"Trigger" gets the phrase "No Love Lost" tattooed on his eyelids at Sin City Tattoos in Pacoima.

Tattoos are more popular than ever. Today they're sported largely by young adults; chances are you can't walk down the street without passing someone who has one.

"At least 80 percent of my customers are college age, and 65 percent of those are female," tattoo artist Gary White said.

And just as they're growing in popularity, they're becoming more controversial.

"I don't like tattoos," student Penn Naayudthaya said. "They look bad, and when I see someone who has one at work they look unprofessional."

Other see the skin-art as a form of expression. "I think tattoos are a way to express individuality," student Robin Crookshanks said.

Some historians believe tattooing started in Egypt. Scientists who have studied markings found on the "Iceman," a mummified human body from 3300 B.C., say that "Iceman" had tattoos.

To some people tattoos are much more than decoration. Ancient Tahitian tribal tattoos served as rites of passage, telling the history of the wearer's life. Boys reaching manhood received one tattoo to mark the occasion, then another when they married.

Thomas Edison made the prototype that Samuel O'Reilly used as a model when he invented the tattoo machine in 1891. The first tattoo shop in the United States opened in 1870 in New York.

Sailors traveling to exotic foreign locations have collected tattoos as souvenirs of their journeys.

Tattoos still have meaning today; to commemorate a loved one's birth or death some people get a tattoo of that person's name.

Author Truman Capote interviewed more than 100 killers over a period of 10 years and said, "Eighty percent of them had one thing in common: tattoos."

Which begs the question: Are those the type of people that get tattoos, or might it that the killers have something in common with nearly 30 million other tattooed Americans?

Television networks are now setting rules regarding tattoos. NBC has prohibited their soap opera stars from getting tattoos and actors that already have them have had to cover up before filming, for any photo shoots and at any press events.

"We shouldn't be promoting something so permanent to an audience not yet old enough to make educated choices," said Eva Demirjian, publicist for Passions, the top rated soap among teens, according to a recent TV Guide interview. "The media can influence what young people do."

More and more celebrities and professional athletes are sporting ink than they did a decade ago. Does the name Winston Churchill sound familiar? How about Thomas Edison, or Queen Victoria? They all had at least one.

"I think the stereo-types of people with tattoos are wrong," student ChaChi Pittman said. "Not everyone with tattoos fit into the same category, all types of people have them."

For those who like the look but can't take the pain, there's always Henna tattoos; both less expensive and temporary.